

**METHOD TO CONTROL A NETWORK DEVICE**  
**IN A NETWORK COMPRISING SEVERAL DEVICES**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method to control a network device in a network comprising several devices includes a first controller that operates to prevent another controller from performing an unwanted overtaking of a network device that is currently controlled by the first controller. In one embodiment, the first controller has the ability to reserve a controllable network device to thereby become its primary controller, so that the first controller may maintain control over the controllable network device against control demands of other controllers present in the network.

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